

Over the Waves

I don't suppose anybody's listening, but it strikes me as a bit of a drag that the CBC radio does not very often use old time Canadian music for incidental music -- stings and the like. I listen to **As It Happens** a lot, and one evening I was wondering why I get edgy at all the little fillers they use, dead-on imitations of Robert Johnson slide guitar licks, even Cajun accordion riffs, along with the usual studio-rock-schlock, and whatever. Some of it sounds real good. But then it struck me -- there's no reason why it couldn't be ten bars of Quebecois fiddle or Newfie accordion or prairie cymbaly.... It's not like there aren't players who could do it -- it's not like Vacuumland is just full of folks sitting out there identifying the tag from "Terraplane Blues" and getting off on it.

I'm sure that that guitarist is Canadian, and I'm sure that the jazz players and violinists that play those stings are (mostly) Canadians, too. I'm glad they're getting the work. It's just that they could just decide to be a little more reflective of this particular country. But they won't. Most of the people who produce radio are real hip -- to what was a new thrill two to three decades ago.... *G.W.L.*